

Our Fundraising Night in May

We hosted our PAF Gala dance party fundraising event on the last Saturday of May at Truffles Café in St Kilda.

This year we entertained more than 60 patrons with our Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Poland Andrew Soszynski, together with Mrs Soszynski as our guests of honour.

Thanks to Ola and Jarek, owners of Truffles Cafe we enjoyed some traditional Polish fare, and a special PAF cake generously donated by Truffles. We danced the night away to music provided by our DJ Emilka Gawryluk. The atmosphere was relaxed and many present danced the night away. Others had a chance to catch up with friends or make new acquaintances.

As an organisation we can definitely pronounce the event highly successful, all monies earned have been allocated to our prize money for our future biennale exhibition.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity, participation and a great social evening. Until next time!



The New Contemporary Drawing Biennale



Our New Contemporary Drawing Biennale is getting closer!

Building on our 20-year tradition of running a drawing competition, we have unveiled a broader scope to enable more artists to participate in this year's biennale event.

For the purpose of outlining the scope of the renewed competition, drawing is defined as the record of a tool moving across a surface in the form of an artistic expression. The work can be presented in pencil, crayon, conte, charcoal, pen or combined with a brush using any of the previous tools, on paper or other suitable material. The competition organiser also invites works created by utilising mechanical and electronic means such as photography, film, video, and new media as long as drawing is part of the creative process.

This is a national Australian event, with entries open to artists from overseas if they wish to participate. The revised PAF website now allows everyone interested in participating in our competition to complete the necessary form online. Visit the biennale section of www.polishartfoundation.org.au and follow the instructions.

Reminder that a deadline for entries closes:
1st September 2023

Exhibition Dates: 16th - 22nd October 2023
Opening Night: Thursday, 19 October at 7pm
Location: No Vacancy Gallery, 34-40 Jane Bell Lane, Melbourne

Prizes:

- First Prize: \$5,000 cash (non-acquisitive)
- Innovation Prize: \$1,000 voucher
- People's Choice Award: selected by our audience

Please note:

We have now placed all Conditions of Entry details, and payment options, which can now be made via card or via bank transfer, on the PAF website.

Visit the biennale section on www.polishartfoundation.org.au

PAF Art Meet is going strong

For every artist and art lover it is a great pleasure and an experience to visit galleries, museums, and various exhibitions. An even greater experience is the opportunity to come into contact with the creator and observe the process of his or her work. We had this opportunity during our last PAF Art Meet event held at the studio of the artist Jarek Wójcik.

Jarek Wójcik has been associated with our foundation for over 20 years, both as a board member and our jury member.

Jarek graduated from the University of Poznań with a MA Degree in Art History and Painting and from the beginning, was an active artist in Poland as well as Australia, where he arrived in 1985.

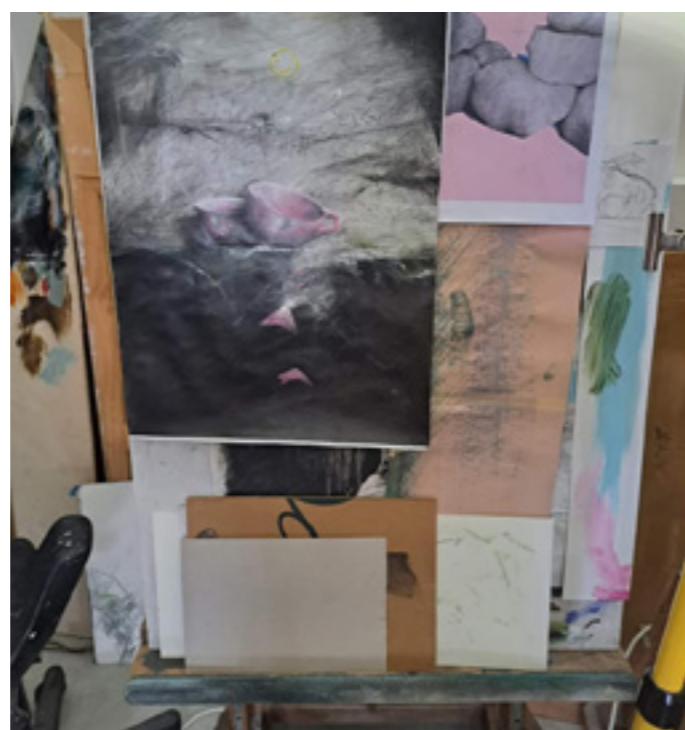
Jarek has exhibited in a large number of individual and group exhibitions in Poland, Australia and overseas, including Korea, France and Germany. He has also won a series of awards, and his works are in corporate and private collections around the world.

On the 18th of June, a group of us met in the hospitable home of Ewa and Jarek, where after a glass of wine and an initial meet and greet, we went across to a spacious, well-lit studio, situated in the lovely garden surrounds, Jarek's creativity space. The President of the Foundation, Anna Maciejewska - Kaszubska, facilitated our conversation, with a series of questions about Jarek's work. Among them, the differences between an artist's work in Poland and Australia, the way of life and artistic activity, techniques used, the music to inspire creativity, the choice of subject and the inspiration

process to create a painting. Jarek strongly believes in Picasso's quote that "Inspiration will come but must find an artist at work". That is why work, taking time to be in the studio where the artist immerses in their own world, and as in the case of Jarek, their choice of music are so important.

For the participants on the day, we had a chance to take a look into an artist's world, the process of painting, browsing sketchbooks with the gift of observation that they unveil, the process of preparation, the thinking, all elements used for the artwork created at some point in the future. Many thanks to the Wójcik family, Ewa, Jarek and son Marcin for their generosity, in welcoming all of us to their home.

Jarek's next exhibition will take place on August 8 in at the M Contemporary Gallery in Sydney. Stay tuned on our social media platforms for more details about upcoming events.



PAF on Instagram

As many of you will note, PAF has had an active presence on Instagram. We have had lots of positive feedback from artists and organisations, and would love to have more of you, our PAF artists on this site.

If you would like to be formally included on our PAF page, do not hesitate, email the polishartfoundation@gmail.com and express your interest formally, and we will touch base to make sure your work is displayed. Make sure you also subscribe to our Facebook page.

PAF Membership - it matters!

We have simplified our membership payments!

We now have one annual subscription fee for all, at only \$35.00 a year.

To learn more about how to best become a member and supporter of PAF, please visit our website, www.polishartfoundation.org.au and click on JOIN US.

Thank you for your support of our organisation.

PAF website is now updated

We have recently revamped and rebuilt our PAF website, with more direct payment options and contact forms that feed into our email. We have also listed past newsletters, exhibition catalogues and added our gallery of past events. We would like to invite all our artists to join our new artist profile section. In order to obtain a profile in this space, we invite artists to become members of PAF, and in this way showcase the patronage of the work of the organisation.

Please visit our website at www.polishartfoundation.org.au as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest information on our events and activities.

Artist Profile- Adam Wolnicki



Where has your interest in the arts sprung from?

I was born like this, I had no choice
I was born with the gift of a golden voice
And twenty-seven angels from the Great Beyond
They tied me to this table right here in the Tower of Song.
"Tower of Song" Leonard Cohen

Cohen was one of the most inspiring artists for me. I can't tell when or where my interest in the arts began. I was born like this. I was born to see, think and feel like an artist. In this world of ours, everything is just an illusion, a deception of feelings and shadows on cave walls, where only a few will have a chance to look back and understand this.

As an atheist I could not expect any gods to help me with this. I had to find my own way and art has helped me with this. Imagine this world without us. There would be sunsets and sunrises no doubt, but none of them would be fantastic or magnificent. Not to mention superb, wonderful, splendid, or glorious and stunning! Without art the 'urinal' would never become Duchamp's Fountain.

I am an artist.

I was born without the gift of a choice.

What is my favourite medium?

I can't say there is one. I am doing photography because I am most confident with it. Following this would be sculpture and installation. As an interior designer I have made quite a few sculptures and installation artworks. One work was for a design concept at TAFE based on Deconstructivism.

I stood in front of the class and placed an old toaster on the desk. I asked: "What is this?"

A toaster was the response.

I took a hammer and smashed the toaster. "What is this now?" I asked. Rubbish they said. I took a nicely framed piece of plywood and nailed bits of the smashed toaster within it making an abstract installation. I asked again: "What is this?"

Art - was the answer.

I was doing photography all my life, but after I retired in 2019 it became number one in my creative everyday life. It helps me to stop and see things in life many others ignore. I got a friend I can't go walking with. His goal is to reach the other end as quick as possible. I stop too many times; I go off the track to investigate and search too often. I stop to smell, touch, and feel. I take photographs.

My main themes are Environmental Portraiture, Still Life and Street Photography. For each of these I use different settings, lights, lenses and cameras.

It comes in different ways but what unites these three is the attention to detail, composition, light, colour, and texture. It might take two weeks to prepare, shoot, edit and print a portrait or still life.

I think I could say digital photography is the medium I use the most.

Did you pursue formal art studies?

Not really. Not until a big change in my personal life some twenty years ago. I sold my kitchen business and enrolled in the Advanced Diploma in Interior Design.

Some might say interior design is not an art. Well, is architecture to be considered an art form? What about works of Antonio Gaudí or Hunderwasser? I did photography courses at the National Art School and TAFE, but mostly I am self-taught. I can feel good composition. Sometimes you need to break all the rules to make it right. I like this about art. There are rules which you don't need to follow.

What inspires you?

People. As I said before, there is no meaning to this life without us - people.



The last one standing



The way she walks



Homesick

When in 2019 I went to travel in France, and I took a lot of photographs. There were people everywhere. It was a challenge to take a shot without anybody in the frame. I look at these photos now and think how much they are missing that most important part, the human figure. That special relation we have with the built environment and nature is what inspires me the most now in my environmental portraits, still life and especially in street photography.

How has your association with the Polish Art Foundation allowed you to showcase your work?

I am lucky to be featured as one of the artists on the Polish Art Foundation website. In 2021 I had work presented at the Faces of the Polish Community (Oblicza Poloni) exhibition. I was also invited to be part of The Borders exhibition in 2022 in Melbourne.